

The Learning Corp

The science

behind Constant Therapy

FEATURED RESEARCH

Computer-mediated cognitive-communication intervention for residents with dementia in a Special Care Unit*

Postman, W. (2016 October)

HIGHLIGHTS

METHODS

- Constant Therapy tasks were incorporated into a 6 week course of skilled SLP treatment with a resident with moderate dementia residing in a Special Care Unit (SCU).
- The resident demonstrated improvements in task performance and required less clinician cues over the course of treatment (see Table 2).
- There was functional improvement in the resident's independence during ADLs, safety, adaptation to surroundings and reduction of negative behaviors. The resident was successfully transferred from the SCU to a long-term care wing that provided more freedom.
- Findings suggest that using the customized Constant Therapy program as a part of speech language therapy "achieved a higher degree of functional recovery and superior quality of life than would have been possible with more traditional therapeutic approaches."

Table 2. Results from Constant Therapy tasks administered to the resident (all at level 1)

Tx Session #, Week #	Constant Therapy Task	Accuracy	Latency	Cue Level*
Tx 1, Wk 1	Symbol Matching	87.5	17.56	MAX
Tx 2, Wk 1	Symbol Matching	90	30.51	MIN
Tx 2, Wk 1	Playing Card Slapjack	76.6	26.69	MAX
Tx 3, Wk 2	Playing Card Slapjack	62.2	25.78	MIN
Tx 3, Wk 2	Flanker	83.3	10.58	MAX
Tx 4, Wk 2	Flanker	100	10.46	MOD
Tx 5, Wk 3	Flanker	80	8.7	MIN
Tx 5, Wk 3	Picture Matching	91.1	33.32	MOD
Tx 6, Wk 4	Picture Matching	97.2	19.11	MIN
Tx 5, Wk 3	Word Matching	95.5	23.51	MOD
Tx 6, Wk 4	Word Matching	94.4	14.29	MIN
Tx 7, Wk 4	Pattern Recreation	88.1	18.96	MOD
Tx 8, Wk 5	Pattern Recreation	73.3	25.78	MOD

*MIN= Minimum cueing of one type (visual) required on <25% of occasions. MOD= Moderate cueing of one or two types (visual and verbal) required on 26-50% of occasions. MAX= Maximum cueing of two or three types (visual, verbal and tactile) required on 51-75% of occasions. Total assistance, that is, multi-modal cues on >75% of occasions, was never required for this resident.

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Research published using Constant Therapy

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